

William Berkeley Lewis to Andrew Jackson, July 19, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>MAJOR WILLIAM B. LEWIS TO JACKSON.

Washington, July 19, 1844.

Dear Sir, Yours of the 28th ultimo came to hand some week or ten days ago, but I have had no opportunity of seeing the President since, as he left here about the time of its receipt, for Old Point Comfort with his fair young bride! 1 I understand from Mr. Calhoun, however, that Genl. Santa Anna received his messenger rather kindly, and thinks he would, at heart, have been rather pleased, than otherwise, at the ratification of the Treaty, as it would have rid him of a troublesome and perplexing question. Santa Anna himself had not been installed into office when our messenger reached Mexico, and the subject was therefore, referred to the Cabinet and ad interim President at the City of Mexico who, in their reply, manifest, so Mr. Calhoun informs me, some feeling, but are not insulting. That you may see what Santa Anna has to say upon the subjects of the Treaty and annexation, I send you herewith a letter addressed by him to the Mexican Minister of Foreign

1 President Tyler's second marriage, to Miss Julia Gardiner, took place on June 26, 1844.

class=MsoNormal>0327 303 Relations which you will find in the National Intelligencer of this morning. I refer you also to the circular of that functionary which he has thought proper to address to the foreign ministers now in the city of Mexico. These two documents will put you in possession of the news and feelings of the Mexican Authorities. They

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are undoubtedly genuine , and may be relied upon as correct, having been printed and published by order of the Government.

Mr. Calhoun authorised me to say to you, confidentially , that he has received communications, in which he has the most implicit confidence, informing him that it is the intention of England, aided, it is said, by France, to coerce Mexico into an acknowledgement of the independence of Texas, provided the latter will withdraw her assent to the proposition of annexation, and pledge herself to maintain a separate and independent Government. It is further said that in giving this pledge Texas will not be required to abolish Slavery , but left to do as she pleases upon that subject! That this information is correct I have not the shadow of a doubt, as I have it from other sources which I believe to be unquestionable. The great object of England is to keep that fine country out of our hands, and she will leave no stone unturned to accomplish that object. She is becoming alarmed at the rising greatness of the U. States, and her own prosperity and safety, she thinks, depend upon their being checked.

Mr. Tyler has not yet returned to Washington, and will not probably before the first next month. But I apprehend, from what a friend told me today, that it is useless to speak to him upon the subject of withdrawing his name from the canvass. I am sure he has no such intention at present ; and I doubt whether he will do so at any future time. . . .